

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-31 were rejected. By entry of this amendment, claims 10-11 and 20-26 have been amended. Claim 29 has been cancelled. Claim 32 has been added. Consequently, claims 1-28 and 30-32 are pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1-4 and 12-15 were rejected as being anticipated by Dupre (US Pat. No. 4,432,121).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 12 are patentable over the Dupre patent, as features of the claims are not disclosed or suggested in the reference. For example, claims 1 and 12 recite a hook having (1) a first portion extending outward from the first end of the base and (2) a second portion curving away from the first end of the base and the second end of the base. The Office Action asserts that the hook shown in Figs. 2-4 of Dupre extends in a direction outward from “the first end” of the base. The applicants respectfully submit that the first portion of the hook extends outward from the **middle of the base** and not the first end of the base (reference numeral 2 in Fig. 3 points to the first end of the base). In the alternative, if the hook shown in Figs. 2-4 of Dupre extends in a direction outward from “the first end” of the base (as suggested by the Office Action), the second portion of the hook would then curve **toward the second end** of the base, and not away from the second end (anchoring means 3 extends from “the second end” of the base). As such, claims 1 and 12 are patentable over the Dupre patent and are in condition for allowance. Claims 2-4 are also patentable over the Dupre patent at least based on direct or indirect dependence on claim 1 and are in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 13-15 are patentable over the Dupre patent at least based on direct or indirect dependence on claim 12 and are in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 8-11 and 19-21 were rejected as being unpatentable over Dupre (US Pat. No.

4,432,121) in view of Tracy (US Pat. No. 4,559,677).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8-11 (dependant on claim 1) and 19-21 (dependant on claim 12) are patentable over the cited references. Claims 8-11 are patentable over the cited references at least based on direct or indirect dependence on claim 1 and are in condition for allowance. Similarly, claims 19-21 are patentable over the cited references at least based on direct or indirect dependence on claim 12 and are in condition for allowance.

Claims 5-7, 16-18, and 22-31 were rejected as being unpatentable over Dupre (US Pat. No. 4,432,121) in view of Princiotta (US Pat. No. 4,333,590).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5-7 (dependant on claim 1) and 16-18 (dependant on claim 12) are patentable over the cited references. Claims 5-7 are patentable over the cited references at least based on direct or indirect dependence on claim 1 and are in condition for allowance. Similarly, claims 16-18 are patentable over the cited references at least based on direct or indirect dependence on claim 12 and are in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 22-31 are patentable over the cited references, as features of the claims are not disclosed or suggested in the references. For example, claims 22, 24, and 26 recite a first portion of the hook extending from a first end of the elongated base and parallel to a central axis of an aperture in the base. Neither Dupre nor Princiotta disclose or suggest this feature. The hook shown in Figs. 2-4 of Dupre extends from the middle, not a first end, of the base at an angle to a central axis of the aperture in the base. Similarly, the hook shown in Figs. 1-9 of Princiotta extends from the middle, not a first end, of the base at an angle to a central axis of the aperture in the base (*see* Fig. 1). In addition, neither reference teaches a hook having a second portion that curves away from the first end of the base and the second end of the base. As such, amended claims 22, 24, and 26 are patentable over the cited references and are in condition for allowance. Therefore, claims 23 and 25 are patentable over the cited references at least based on direct dependence on claims 22 and 24 respectively and are in condition for allowance. Similarly, claims 27-28 and 30-31 are patentable over the cited references at least based on direct or indirect dependence on claim 26 and are in condition for allowance.

New claim 32

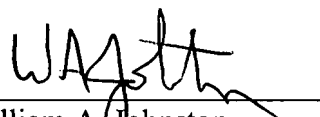
New claim 32 is directed to a bungee cord having a base with an angled top surface. Claim 32 is believed to be allowable at least based on direct dependence on claim 26.

In summary, independent claims 1, 12, 22, 24, and 26 are believed to be allowable. Further, the remaining pending dependent claims are allowable at least based on direct or indirect dependence from the corresponding allowable independent claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims of this application is respectfully solicited. Furthermore, if the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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William A. Johnston
(Reg. No.: 47,687)

Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP
1400 McDonald Investment Center
800 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114-2688
Phone (216) 622-8576
Fax (216) 241-0816

Customer No. 24024